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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Sunni MUNTASSER
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 27 January 1996 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to my letter dated 27 July 1995, addressed to the President of the Security Council, which was circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/1995/624). I should like to inform you that the United States Administration, in a letter which it sent to the United States Congress on 22 January 1996 concerning the national state of emergency with respect to Libya, has once again repeated its claims that the policies and actions of the Government of Libya continue to pose an abnormal threat to the national security and foreign policies of the United States of America, and that the Libyan Government's persistent failure to appropriately demonstrate its renunciation of terrorism, and particularly its continuing failure to comply fully and effectively with the decisions and demands of Security Council resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992), constitute a threat to international peace and security. In its letter, the United States Administration threatened to impose international measures more severe than those included in Security Council resolution 883 (1993), including a comprehensive petroleum embargo.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation would like to stress that the claims the United States Administration has persisted in repeating, ever since the state of emergency was declared on 17 January 1986 by Executive Order No. 12543 and economic sanctions were imposed on Libya in accordance with it, are false and have no factual basis of any kind.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a peaceful country bound by the principles of international law and by the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It works in cooperation with the international community in order to maintain international peace and security and strengthen the other purposes of the United Nations. It endeavours to settle its disputes with other countries by peaceful means, as witnessed by its good record with the International Court of Justice, which is not restricted to simply having recourse to the Court, but is affirmed by its complete compliance with the judgements passed by the Court.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation would also like to stress that there is nothing in any Libyan policy or action which could possibly constitute a threat to American national security or foreign policy. It is, on the contrary, completely unimaginable that those policies and actions could threaten American national security, and it is ridiculous to suggest otherwise. The truth is, as the facts attest and events corroborate, that it is the policies of the United States Administration and its actions which have posed a very real threat during recent years to the national security of Libya. What was the iniquitous United States armed aggression against Libya in 1986 but a sombre illustration of those policies and actions?

Despite those empty claims, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has always been concerned to demonstrate its readiness to discuss any problem or dispute in order to settle it by one of the peaceful means advocated by the Charter of the United Nations. It has, in effect, ever since the legal dispute concerning the Lockerbie affair arose, called upon the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to open the door to dialogue, in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement. However, they persist in keeping any door which could lead to a peaceful solution closed. They have preferred to escalate the situation and to repeat their empty claims and misleading statements, in order to prolong and increase the severity of the sanctions. They are unconcerned about the suffering caused to the Arab people of Libya and the people of the region by the harshness of these sanctions.

The United States Administration's claim that Security Council resolution 731 (1992) has not been complied with is also unfounded. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has complied fully and effectively with that resolution. The statement by the United Kingdom Government to the Security Council on 22 November 1995 provides confirmation: it described the response to its questions concerning the Irish Republican Army as a positive step towards compliance with the pertinent resolutions and, in particular, towards the renunciation of terrorism. All that remains is the trial of the two suspects, and extraordinary efforts have been made by Libya and its associated regional organizations to find a possible legal solution. It is not possible to enumerate here all those efforts, which have been faithfully reflected in Security Council documents.

It is sufficient, in response to the United States Administration's claim concerning terrorism, that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has challenged the three Western countries to accept its suggestion that a delegation should be sent to ascertain that there are no camps used, as it is claimed, for the training of terrorists on Libyan territory. All this is well established by Security Council records.

The United States Administration continues to repeat false claims and statements in order to mislead public opinion, influence the Security Council and keep holding the sharp sword of sanctions over the Arab Libyan people without any justification. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya therefore officially requests the Security Council as follows:

1. To organize a committee to study the facts and the extent of the truth of the claims made by the United States Administration that Libyan policies and actions pose an abnormal threat to the national security and foreign policies of the United States of America.

2. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya repeats yet again its willingness to receive a delegation chosen by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ascertain that there are no camps used, as it is claimed, for the training of terrorists on Libyan territory. The Jamahiriya hopes that the Security Council will call upon the Secretary-General to send such a delegation as soon as possible. Similarly, it hopes that the Security Council will call upon the three States to stop repeating general and ambiguous expressions which are damaging to the reputation of a Member of the United Nations.

3. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reiterates its demand that an independent inquiry should be conducted to arrive at the truth of the incident which caused the Pan American aircraft to be destroyed over Lockerbie, in view of the inadequacy of previous investigations and the doubts surrounding them. It also demands the suspension of the sanctions imposed by Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) until the results of the investigation are published.

If these requests are carried out, they will put an end to the false claims being repeated from time to time, which are badly damaging international relations.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa MUNTASSER
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation